

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

A line orientation determining unit determining whether the line orientation of an input document image is either vertical or horizontal, a character image extracting unit extracting a character image from the input document image, a character orientation detecting unit detecting whether or not to require a rotation, a rotational angle if the rotation is required, and mirror image flipping, which are intended for correcting the extracted character image to be properly orientated, in correspondence with the result of the determination made by the line orientation determining unit, and a document image correcting unit correcting the input document image to be properly orientated based on the result of the detection made by the character orientation detecting unit are comprised. With these units, a scanned image is automatically corrected to be a properly orientated image, even if a document such as an English document image the text of which is horizontally written in normal cases is scanned in any of upward, downward, right, and left directions, is scanned, for example, with the use of a hand-held scanner.